

THE FIRST RIDER –

Who is he?

What do the Scriptures inform about this man's character? What is identity? It is crucial to learn the first rider's personality and then, his assignment.

1) **A false** - He is portrayed as one that come like the true Messiah on a white horse, however he is an impostor.

- *"I looked, and there before me was a white horse." Rev. 6: 2 - crown (Rev. 19: 11)*
- *"I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him." John 5: 43*

The Messiah or Christ has three offices: (Zachariah 9: 9 / John 12: 13), (1 Timothy 2:5/ Hebrews (7:13-17) and (Deuteronomy 18:15/Acts 3:22–23)

2) **A master of**

- *"In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people. 25 He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power." Daniel 8: 23-25*

3) **Man of who desires to be**

- *"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. " II Thes. 2: 3-4*

He has a nature (see Isaiah 14: 12-14)

4) **The**

The apostle John in his epistles (I John 2: 18, 4: 2-3, and II John 7), presented another name for the horseman of revelation: the antichrist.

Note¹: Greek antichristos (ἀντίχριστος) - in place of, the name will signify one who puts himself in the place of Christ: consequently, antichrist is a false Christ. But if the preposition denotes oppositions, antichrist is one who opposes Christ. (Matthew 24:5,24).

5) The

- *“So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13: 4*

Another title for the first horseman in Revelation is “The beast.” It comes from the Greek word (θηρίον - *“thērion”*). It is mentioned 19 times in the New Testament. Interesting, one of the passages that mention this Greek word is in the book of Acts it is translated as “viper” or a venomous creature.

- *“But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper (“thērion”) came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand.” Acts 28: 3-4*

THE SATANIC CHARACTER OF THE BEAST IN CONTRAST WITH CHRIST

Jesus is the Son of God, he is(John 8: 44)

Jesus is life (John 8: 44)..

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (Acts 20: 29)

Jesus is the light of the world, (Col. 1: 13 – 2 Cor. 11: 14)

Jesus is the truth, (John 8: 44)

Jesus is the way to heaven (Rev. 14: 11; 19: 20; 20: 15)

Jesus is the life (John 10: 10)

Jesus is the door to heaven (Rev. 14: 11)

What will be his main goal?

Once we know his identity, the next important inquiry is about his assignment.

1. To (Mat. 4: 8)

- *““who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” II Thessalonians 2: 4*
- *Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished. “Daniel 11: 36*

¹ Benson Commentary

- *“All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.” Revelation 13: 8*

Who will empower this man to govern?

a) The

- *“The dragon² gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?” Rev. 13: 2-4, Daniel 8: 24-25*

b) A powerful leader (.....)

- *“Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.” Revelation 13: 11-13*

c) Confederation of leaders (.....)

“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.” Revelation 17: 11-13

d) A powerful apparatus³

- *“It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.” Revelation 13: 16-17*

e) phenomenon:

- *“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.” II Thessalonians 2: 9-10 (Revelation 13: 12-14)*
- *“For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” Matthew 24: 24*

² “He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan.” Revelation 20: 2

³ The term “FANG” refers to the stocks of four popular American technology companies: Facebook, Amazon, Netflix, and Alphabet. Each of the FANG companies has shown extraordinary growth in recent years, reflected in both their revenues and their net profits. Although their business models vary, they each share the use of advanced technologies to acquire and retain users.

FROM PROSPERITY TO WRATH

1. From peace and prosperity to:

- “Jesus had told his disciples that the peace of this world had nothing to do with his peace, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* John 14: 27
- “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, *“Peace and safety!”* then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” I Thessalonians 5: 2-3

2. The

- “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: **for all the earth is mine.**” Exodus 19:5
- “Behold, to the LORD your **God belong** the heavens, even the highest heavens, and the earth and everything in it.” Deuteronomy 10:14, Leviticus 25: 23, Job 41:11, Psalm 24; 1

4) The frustration of the false environmentalists:

a) **God will.....:**

- “Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.” Revelation 8: 10-11
- “Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.” Revelation 16: 4, Revelation 8: 8-9, Revelation 16: 3

• **b) God will bring about¹**

- “Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat.” Revelation 16: 8-9, (Revelation 16: 18)

c)of the Antichrist will be eradicated:

- “When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.” Revelation 6: 5-6

- *“The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.” 8: 7*

5. The Beast’s “New World Society” irrecoverable,

- *“And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.” Revelation 16: 9*
- *“They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.” Revelation 16: 10*
- *“Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.” Revelation 16: 21*

a. Therefore, they will join the evil trinity in eternity

- *“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb” Revelation 14: 9-10*

The beast’s last attempt

Satan’s always knew his destiny. The Bible says that he is already judged and found guilty without redemption. It is Unknown to us when, however, God had prepared a place to send him and his demons called the Lake of Fire as their eternal prison. In Revelation chapter twelve and verse twelve says,

- *“For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” Revelation 12: 12*

Even after all the plagues, antichrist will still think that he is God and together with the false prophet and the devil they will gather an army of two hundred million soldiers for an apocalyptic battle quite mentioned in the Bible:

- *“And the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the East. And I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. These are demonic spirits that perform signs and go out to all the kings of the earth, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God, the Almighty.” Revelation 16: 12-14*
- *“And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.” Revelation 16: 16*
- *“Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus, I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. Revelation 9: 16-17*

a) Anti-christ main target

The beast will get his political, satanic, and military arsenal focus to fight against their major enemy and target: Jesus Christ:

- *“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. They will wage war against the Lamb...,”* Revelation 17: 12-14
- *“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.”* Revelation 19: 19

b) The first horseman will be defeated

As we read in the beginning of our study, in chapter six of Revelation, *“He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”* This wicked king, crowned to conquer and to set up his evil kingdom, which will capture and murder many of God’s people, will lose his crown and, his kingdom. He will be arrested and send to his eternal destination with his followers:

- *“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”* Revelation 19: 20

“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” Revelation 17: 14

c) The last horseman will triumph again

In our next study, we will learn about the last horseman of Revelation, but to close this article, we have to read about the glorious King over the beast and his kingdom:

- *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”* Revelation 19: 11-16

The divine wrath will come upon the world:

- *“For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words,*

for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” Ephesian 5: 5-6

ii. This wrath will not come against God’s people:

- *“To wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” I Thessalonians 1: 10*
- *“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, “I Thessalonians 5: 9*

However, do not forget

- *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16: 33*
- *“Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”” Acts 14: 22*
- *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” II Timothy 3: 12*

Therefore, we have to distinguish the difference between tribulation and wrath.

Look the definition of the Greek words in Scriptures:

d) Wrath - ὀργήν – orgēn

The church will be spared from the wrath of God:

- *•“and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath (orgēn). I Thes. 1: 6-10*
- *•” For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath(orgēn)but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” I Thes. 5: 9-11*

WHY THE CHURCH CAN’T FACE WRATH?

ONE WORD DEFINITION:

- *“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Romans 3: 24-26*
- *‘In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” I John 4: 10*
- *“and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.” Hebrews 9: 5*

Propitiation that by which God is rendered propitious, i.e., by which it becomes consistent with his character and government to pardon and bless the sinner. The propitiation does not procure his love or make him loving; it only renders it consistent for him to exercise his love towards sinners.

In Romans 3:25 and Hebrews 9:5 (A.V., "mercy-seat") the Greek word hilasterion is used. It is the word employed by the LXX. translators in Exodus 25:17 and elsewhere as the equivalent for the Hebrew kapporeth, which means "covering," and is used of the lid of the ark of the covenant (Exodus 25:21; 30:6). This Greek word (hilasterion) came to denote not only the mercy-seat or lid of the ark, but also propitiation or reconciliation by blood. On the great day of atonement the high priest carried the blood of the sacrifice he offered for all the people within the veil and sprinkled with it the "mercy-seat," and so made propitiation.

In 1 John 2:2; 4:10, Christ is called the "propitiation for our sins." Here a different Greek word is used (hilasmos). Christ is "the propitiation," because by his becoming our substitute and assuming our obligations he expiated our guilt, covered it, by the vicarious punishment which he endured. (Compare Hebrews 2:17, where the expression "make reconciliation" of the A.V. is more correctly in the RSV "make propitiation.")

e) ***Trials - θλίψιν - thlipsin***

But, not from trials or tribulations,

- *"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, (thlipsin) and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." Matt. 24: 9*
- *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: (thlipsin) but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16: 22*